

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
4/9/79

Dear Jeff,

Yesterday's account of Jim Kostman's problems prompts this letter that I ask you to forward to his father on the chance the information can be of use to those who are treating Jim. (To whom I'd also like my hopes and best wishes conveyed.)

First of all it is not as unusual as it might appear for people to have flipped out at some point in their interest in the JFK assassination when they were faced with disillusionment or acute disappointment. I know of a number of cases. People I knew and liked. One woman required extensive hospitalization. A very promising, bright and responsible young man quit the world after the Garrison fiasco because he had been so involved in it and was that dismayed and frustrated. There are others.

After reading the Post story I found myself wondering about the possibility of correlation with two matters involving me. You can date these more easily than I, from your own files, and I would appreciate it you do on the chance it can be of help to Jim and to treating him now.

If my recollection is correct it was the day I received two Warren Commission executive session transcripts that I first met Jim. He and you were at the press conference in Jim's (Lesar's) office when I gave the copies away. You received extra copies for further distribution, so if by no other means you can date it from that.

Jim wanted to talk to me. He offered to drive me home so I cancelled my other arrangements, he did drive me home, he stayed for supper and all in all we had a long talk. It was not unlike what you may recall from the time you, Katz and Sandy were here for an evening, when I discussed what I consider irresponsible and counterproductive, particularly regard^{ing} the House committee.

Then there was the Seven Days piece after I had written a strong response and commentary on its earlier form in your bulletin. I believe I also reacted with vigor to the appearance of the article. I recall your phone call in which you said there was a time lag and the article was in the works before my earlier letter was received. This was about the King assassination and the Rays and it was wrong and the straight committee line. I never heard from Jim about it.

Whether from feelings of guilt, failure, futility or frustration could this have been some kind of trigger? If so could it be of use in therapy now? Of course I don't know. But I think it should be passed on to the therapists, who are in a better position to know or decide. I'd feel this way if Jim had not impressed my wife and me as a very good person, as he did.

Sincerely,